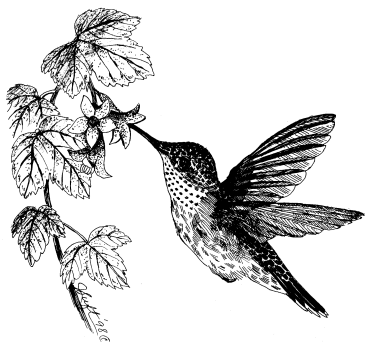
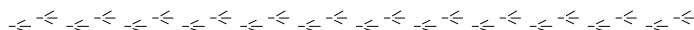


## Winter 2000

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This past year has seen some exciting partnerships bear fruit. We have a new bat brochure and there is a new book on landscaping for wildlife that is tailored to our region. The Urban Reforestation grants continue to support exciting and worthwhile projects. The next application cycle deadline will be April 22, 2000. Be sure to get your application form in; maybe your project will be the next partnership to benefit wildlife.

The Department of Natural Resources Green Globe Awards honor people and businesses that are making a difference for the environment. These prestigious awards are given out every other year. There have been two winners in the wildlife habitat category to-date. The selection process gets more difficult each time because there are so many people doing such a great job of making a difference. If you know of someone who should be nominated, call the Wildlife Program at 206-296-7266. The next Green Globes will be awarded on Earth Day 2001.



Our new address is:  
King County Wildlife  
Program  
201 S. Jackson, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3854  
The phone number is still:  
(206) 296-7266

Are we there yet? Hopefully, this latest move will be the last for some time to come. We have moved into the new King Street Center - reportedly the “greenest” building in town. It’s full of recycled and non-toxic materials, and energy and resource-saving devices.

## A Little Bird Told Me....



**Urban Reforestation Grants:** There will be another special grant cycle this year. The next deadline will be April 22, 2000. You can call for more information or check out the website at <http://splash.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/urhrdesc.htm>. You can also down-load the application form from this site. If you miss the April deadline, the next one will be October 15, 2000.

**Bats:** Learn about our local bats! Produced in partnership with Bats Northwest, this new brochure is available from the Wildlife Program or on-line at <ftp://splash.metrokc.gov/dnr/VCGIS/pubs/lands/webbats.pdf>.



**Web Resources:** The Wildlife Program web pages will soon include all publications, not just the newest ones. This on-line source may soon be the only place to find "Living With Salmon in King County", as this publication is virtually out-of-print.

**Salmon:** King County has many dedicated fisheries biologists working on ways to protect our salmon and respond to the Endangered Species Act listing. While the Wildlife Program supports those efforts, we are focused mainly on issues related to birds, mammals, amphibians, and wildlife habitat. If you have a fish-related issue, give us a call and we'll get you to the right person.

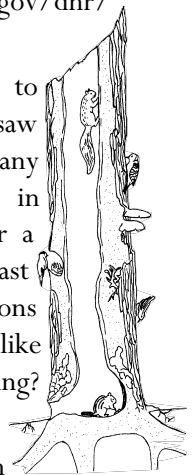


**Bears and Cougars:** If you see a bear or a cougar, be sure to report your sighting to 206-296-7266. By compiling enough sightings, we can start to get a picture of where these animals like to live and the types of habitats they are using.

**Speakers:** Do you need a speaker for your garden club or civic organization? How about learning more about naturescaping for wildlife or about what wildlife occur here? Call Kate Stenberg at 206-296-7266 to arrange for programs.

**Who Lives in A Snag?** Find out on the Kids Web at <http://www.metrokc.gov/dnr/kidsweb/>.

**Hérons:** What is happening to our herons? This past spring saw widespread abandonment of many of the bigger heron rookeries in Puget Sound. If you live near a heronry, what did you see this last year? What dates were the herons there or not there? Would you like to monitor a rookery next spring? Call 206-296-7266 to sign up.



**Green Globe Awards:** In 1997 the Green Globe winner in the Leader in Habitat Protection category was Classic Nursery for their outstanding work in supporting habitat restoration and educational efforts on the nursery grounds. They are one of several nurseries with native plants and resources for wildlife habitats; see the Naturescaping column for more ideas.

The 1999 winner in the Leader in Habitat Protection category was Joanna Buehler for her tireless efforts to improve habitats associated with Lake Sammamish; including everything from educating her neighbors to working for more sustainable development practices.

To learn more about the Green Globes Awards go to <http://splash.metrokc.gov/grnglobe/>

or to <http://splash.metrokc.gov/grnglobe/99globe.htm>.



## And Bears, Oh My!

Our local black bears actually come in many colors, from black to brown to a cinnamon or even reddish-blond color. In addition, they often have a light tan muzzle and may even have a white blaze on their chest. Black bears in Washington don't get very large; averaging about 130 pounds for females and up to 225 pounds for males. They may be 5 to 6 feet long from nose to tail, but they only stand 2 to 3 feet high at the shoulder.

Black bears are omnivorous, meaning they will eat just about anything. They will eat grasses, berries, nuts, fruits, insects, small mammals, fish, eggs, honey, and carrion (dead animals). In residential areas they will also eat pet food, garbage, fruit and vegetable scraps on a compost pile, the worms in the compost, and bird seed. If you live in a neighborhood that occasionally gets bears, be sure that there isn't anything in your yard that they might like to eat.

Bears are more likely to be seen in neighborhoods that are near forested habitats. Based on reported sightings, our local bears seem to be most active in residential areas from the end of May through July. You can minimize your chances of encountering a bear in your yard during this time by removing all of your bird feeders and making sure there isn't anything else that a bear might want to eat. The birds will do quite well during the summer months without the bird feeders. Other options for providing for the birds are found in the Naturescaping column.

If you do see a bear, stay calm, stand tall, wave your arms, and talk to identify yourself as a human. Move away from the bear but do not run; go indoors if you can. Give the bear plenty of room and leave it an escape route. Black bears are typically non-aggressive and will tend to avoid people. But if they are startled or frightened, or if they become too accustomed to being in yards with people, they may become less predictable. Remember to report bear sightings in King County to the Wildlife Program at 206-296-7266 and aggressive behavior or attacks to WDFW at 1-800-477-6224.





## **Naturescaping**

A bird feeder is a great way to attract some birds into your yard where you can observe and learn about them. But how can you support the birds if you go away on an extended vacation? What can you do for the birds if you have to take down your bird feeder because it is attracting bears, or worse, rats? The good news is that birds do not become dependent on your feeder, even in winter. So if you need to take it down for an extended period of time, the birds will simply find other sources and will come back when you put the feeder back up. The even better news is that you can provide year-round natural support to a wider variety of birds by planting native plants. Not all birds eat bird-seed; and all birds, even those that do eat bird seed, need insects at some point in their lifecycle. Native plants will provide a greater diversity of foods than we can provide with artificial feeders. Therefore, with native plants, there will be a greater diversity of birds in your yard. Native plants require little maintenance and will “work” even if you are away. Native plants will also supply foods at natural levels, so you are less likely to get big annoying flocks of a few species. And native plants are unlikely to attract nuisance animals such as rats.



The new book “Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest” can help you learn about using native plants. Unlike many other reference sources, this new book is tailored to our local environments and won’t leave you guessing about what might grow well in our area. It is available at local bookstores. Copies signed by the author are available from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Call 425-775-1311 for ordering information.

Native plants are becoming easier to find and some species are commonly seen in regular nurseries. For additional information about native plants for wildlife and sources for native plants, call the Wildlife Program at 206-296-7266 and ask for the naturescaping handouts.



## Wild Opportunities

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**King County Parks** offers a wide variety of interpretive programs for all ages. Call 206-296-4171 to sign up for the "County Tracks" newsletter with listings for all the nature hikes and programs.

**Woodland Park Zoo** offers classes for families, adults, and kids - encounter elephants, snakes or wolves. You can also train to be a docent at the zoo. Call 206-684-4841 for program information.

**Discovery Park Naturalist Pro-grams** include guided explorations of intertidal, beach, and pond habitats. Call 206-386-4236 for information on these and other programs.

**Adopt-A-Park:** Many park systems have adopt-a-park programs where you can help the habitats in your neighborhood. Call Tor Bell at 206-296-2990 to work in King County Parks.

**Seattle Audubon** is looking for a few good volunteers. Call 206-523-8243 for current opportunities.

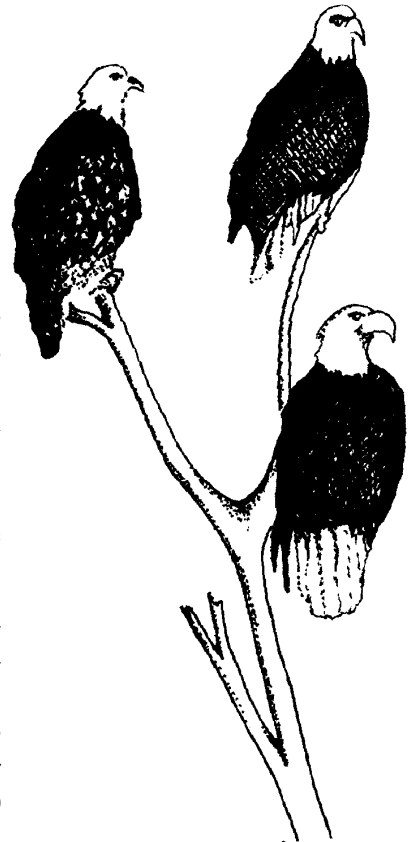
**Forest landowners** can learn how to prepare a forest stewardship plan and manage their forest for wildlife. Call Steve Sax at 206-205-6380 for class schedules.

**The Seattle Aquarium** has lots of volunteer possibilities with aquatic forms of wildlife. There are special seasonal programs such as whale watching and kayaking trips. Call 206-386-4300 for more details.

**Give injured wildlife** a second chance. Requires a weekly commitment for 3 months. Contact PAWS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Lynnwood at 425-787-2500 ext. 808.

**EnviroExpo 2000** is coming April 1 - 2, 2000 at the Stadium Exhibition Center. Come and see environmentally friendly products and get great discounts on "green" appliances and other innovative products.

**This list covers only a few opportunities to learn about our local wildlife and habitats. Be sure to also call your local park district.**



*We must be  
the change  
we wish to  
see in the  
world.*

*Mahatma*